



April 2022

National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW) (<https://immunize.ca/niaw>) is an annual event held in the last week of April to highlight and recognize the importance of immunizations. Immunization is the most effective way to protect against disease at any age and stage of life. **NIAW is April 23-30, 2022.**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Saskatchewan's routine immunization rates for infants and children have dropped. Health care providers are concerned that this means young children are vulnerable to serious vaccine-preventable diseases such as tetanus, pertussis ('whooping cough'), measles, varicella (chickenpox) and meningitis (see chart below for recommended vaccines). These diseases and others can result in hospitalizations, permanent health effects and death even if treatment is provided.

For the best protection against many serious diseases, it is very important for infants and young children to get all their vaccines on time as noted on Saskatchewan's routine immunization schedule (www.saskatchewan.ca/immunize). Vaccines work best when children are immunized before they are exposed to vaccine preventable diseases. Fully immunized children are less likely to spread these diseases to those who are too young to be immunized or who have medical conditions that make them more susceptible to serious diseases.

Immunize Canada (<https://immunize.ca/>) has great information for parents and others who want to learn more about immunization and the diseases that they protect against. MySaskHealthRecord provides quick and easy access to your health information including immunization. For more information go to <https://www.ehealthsask.ca/MySaskHealthRecord>. The CANImmunize app also allows you to store vaccination records and access them on your phone or other mobile device. For more information go to www.canimmunize.ca/app

Childhood Immunization Schedule

Age	Vaccines
2 months	DTaP-IPV-Hib (Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis, inactivated Polio & <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b) Pneumococcal conjugate 13 Rotavirus
4 months	DTaP-IPV-Hib (Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis, inactivated Polio & <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b) Pneumococcal conjugate 13 Rotavirus
6 months	DTaP-IPV-Hib (Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis, inactivated Polio & <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b) Rotavirus
12 months	MMRV (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella) Meningococcal conjugate C Pneumococcal conjugate 13 Hepatitis A (for children living on reserves and select Northern communities)
18 months	DTaP-IPV-Hib (Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis, inactivated Polio & <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b) MMRV (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella) Hepatitis A (for children living on reserves and select Northern communities)
4-6 years	Tdap-IPV (Tetanus, Diphtheria, acellular Pertussis, inactivated Polio)

Please take time to share with your staff and colleagues the importance of immunization programs and promote National Immunization Awareness week this month. For more information on vaccinations, call your local Public Health office, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/immunize or visit Immunize Canada at <https://immunize.ca/>.

Thank you!

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Stay on track with your child's immunizations!

Did you know...Immunizations have saved more lives in Canada than any other medical intervention! In fact, worldwide immunization prevents between 2-3 million deaths every year.

How do Vaccines Work?

Vaccines interact with the immune system to produce an immune response similar to that produced by the natural infection. They prevent diseases such as measles, mumps, pertussis, and varicella and complications arising from these disease such as pneumonia, brain damage, blindness, loss of hearing, ear infections, limb amputation, cancers, and even death.

Common Vaccine Myths:

MYTH: Vaccines cause disease and lots of complications.

FACT: Vaccines do not cause the disease and are very safe. Most vaccine reactions are usually minor and temporary, such as a sore arm or mild fever. Individuals are far more likely to be seriously injured by a vaccine-preventable disease than by a vaccine.

MYTH: Too many vaccines at one time will make you sick.

FACT: Scientific evidence shows that giving several vaccines at the same time has no adverse effect on a child or adult's immune system and is safe. Every day our bodies come into contact with many germs, causing our immune system to work continuously to protect us. Even if you receive several vaccines at one time, the body would still be able to respond without being overwhelmed.

MYTH: If I don't vaccinate my child, it only impacts them.

FACT: Vaccination is important because it not only protects the person receiving the vaccine, but also helps prevent the spread of disease, especially to those that are most vulnerable to serious complications such as infants and young children, elderly, and those with chronic conditions and weakened immune systems. If people are not vaccinated, diseases that have become uncommon, such as polio and measles, will quickly reappear.

For more information on vaccinations, call your local Public Health office, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/immunize or visit Immunize Canada at <https://immunize.ca/>.